



First Annual Report
December 2010

Prepared for:

SEATTLE YOUTH & FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Estela Ortega, Co-Chair

Norm Rice, Co-Chair

Bob Watt, Co-Chair

Executive Summary

As a community, we are failing our children. By 2018, two-thirds of jobs available in the state will require a degree or certification beyond a high school education. But not all youth in Seattle graduate ready for college or a career.

The Seattle Youth and Families Initiative is working with the community to identify the biggest obstacles facing youth and mobilizing community members, organizations, city departments, and schools to create solutions. The Initiative strives to help all children succeed, from birth to their careers after high school.

In 2010 the Youth and Families Initiative went out to talk to the community and set priorities. In 2011, the initiative is driving internal and external action in the following ways:

1. Determine where and how the city spends money along Seattle's Roadmap to Success to ensure city spending is in line with current research on best practices and our community priorities.
2. Focus on the renewal of the Families and Education Levy to increase resources available for the kids who need it most in our community
3. Implement Action Teams devoted to the priorities identified at the Kids and Families Congress.
4. Convene local educational institutions and funders to collaborate on education reform and budget alignment.
5. Increase community engagement and participation in internal city work as well as through Seattle's Cities of Service plan.

These five priorities came out of a year long process. The Initiative began its work with a series of public forums to ask the community directly: What do youth and families in the city need to succeed? The Initiative held five large workshops, a youth summit, and 131 community caucuses throughout the city to identify the most important issues facing youth and families in the Seattle. The events generated a huge turnout, with over 3,000 Seattle residents participating and meetings held in eight different languages.

Next, delegates convened for the Kids and Families Congress to review the more than 1,200 issues that community members had raised. They prioritized the top issues for immediate action, which fall within the Initiative's six action areas: health, neighborhood safety, race and social justice, strong neighborhoods, youth development, and education. Action teams are currently at work on strategies in each of these action areas to help children succeed, responding directly to the concerns and suggestions of the community members who participated in the Initiative.

Introduction

Taking office in 2010, Mayor Mike McGinn launched a major new initiative to prepare all children in Seattle for success after high school. The Seattle Youth and Families Initiative (the Initiative) engages community members to identify the challenges that youth and families face and then collectively mobilizes the community, city departments, and schools to take action. Co-chaired by Norm Rice, former Mayor of Seattle; Bob Watt, former Deputy Mayor; and Estela Ortega, Executive Director of El Centro de la Raza, the Initiative eliminates barriers so that children can be successful from birth to their careers. An important step in helping youth succeed is eliminating racial disparities in education, health, child care, and the criminal justice system in Seattle.

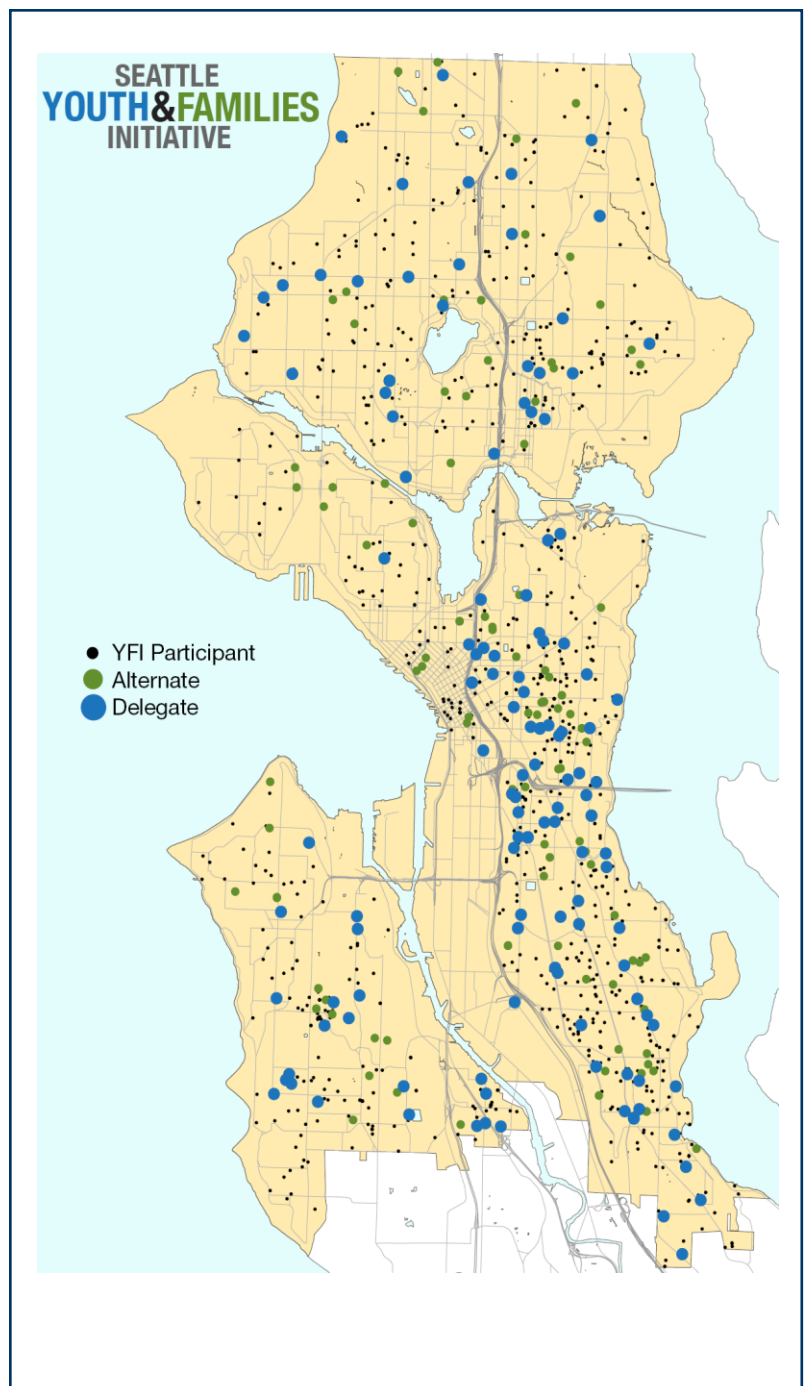
To identify the priorities that the Initiative would focus on, the Mayor's Office organized a series of public forums to ask the community directly: What do youth and families in the city need to succeed?

The Initiative held five large workshops, a youth summit, and 131 community caucuses throughout the city to identify the most important issues facing youth and families in the Seattle. The events generated a huge turnout, with over 3,000 Seattle residents participating. Residents represented a wide range of community members and groups, including the Somali community, Homeless Single Mothers, United Indian Family Support Workers, and the Seattle LGBT Commission, to provide a few examples among many others.

Next, delegates from the community meetings convened on June 5, 2010, for the Kids and Families Congress. The delegates reviewed the more than 1,200 issues that community members had raised and narrowed them down to the 35 most important issues to address in order to truly affect the challenges that Seattle's children, youth, and families face. Each of the top priority issues fall within one of the Initiative's six action areas:

- Health
- Neighborhood safety
- Race and social justice
- Strong neighborhoods
- Youth development
- Education

As a direct result of the issues raised at the Summit, the Initiative is responding with a



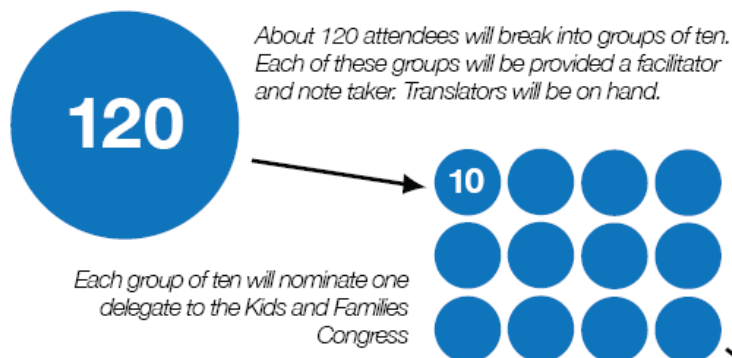
number of strategies to help children succeed, each addressing the priority areas that community members identified. Action teams are currently creating plans to guide strategies for each action area.

Several priority issues arc across most or all of the action areas. Cultural competency and racial and social equity are particularly important issues that each action team will need to address.

The graphic on the following page describes the Initiative's community engagement process.

1 Large Group Workshops (6)

February 22 - March 22, 2010



2 Community Caucuses (75+)

March 22 - May 1, 2010

Community Caucuses are intended to reach communities, organizations, and people who are unable or disinclined to attend large public meetings.

They are also intended to focus conversations around community- and neighborhood-specific issues.

Like the Workshop small groups, each caucus will be provided a facilitator and note taker, as well as a translator if one is required.

One delegate to the Kids and Families Congress will be nominated by each caucus.

15

3 Kids & Families Congress

June 5, 2010, Seattle Center

A one-day congress is scheduled at the Seattle Center on June 5. Delegates from workshops and caucuses, city staff, school district staff, and representatives of the business community, foundations, community-based organizations, and legislators will be invited to attend and participate. Interpretation and translation will be provided.

**Delegates
nominated at
Workshops
and Caucuses**

4 Action Planning Groups

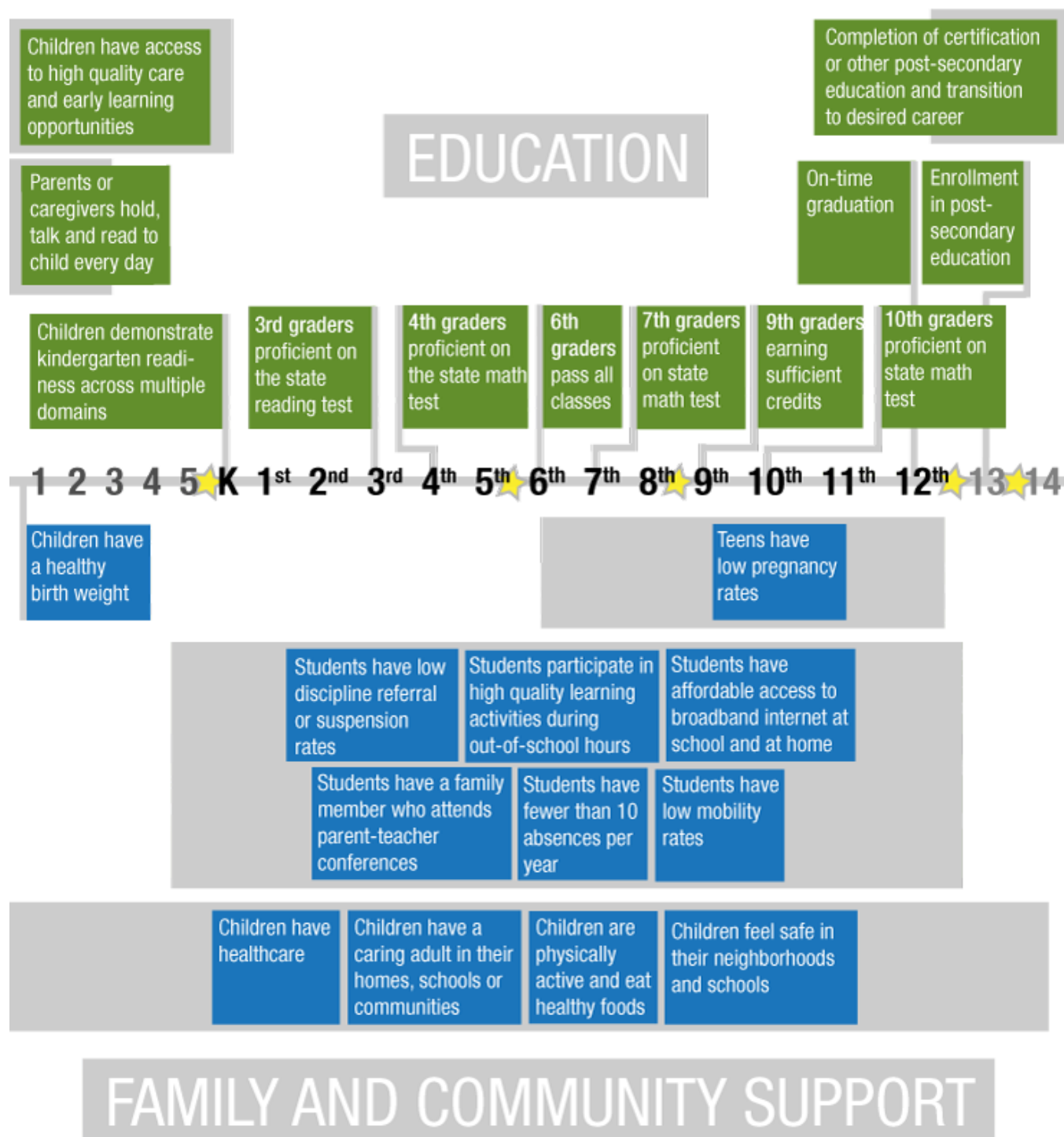
September - December, 2010

Teams composed of delegates, city staff, experts, and legislators will be formed to develop action plans for priority issues that emerge from the Congress. Action plans will include priorities for city spending and the Families and Education Levy. Action plans will outline and strengthen partnerships among the city, Seattle Public Schools, CBOs, foundations, businesses, and elected officials at all levels

In Partnership with the Community Center for Education Results, the Initiative is taking advantage of cutting-edge research on youth development in order to identify the most important predictors of success in life and track the Initiative's results. This research has led to the creation of a Roadmap to Success, which outlines the most important points in the lives of youth and families to monitor progress toward post-secondary achievement. The milestones described in the Roadmap to Success align with the Initiative's action areas--many focus on education, while others deal with family and community support. When all of the Initiative's strategies for families and youth are in place, the Initiative expects that children's path to success will look similar to the path laid out on the following page. By checking in with youth and families at each milestone along the way, the community will be able to identify challenges and create new solutions.

Seattle's Roadmap to Success

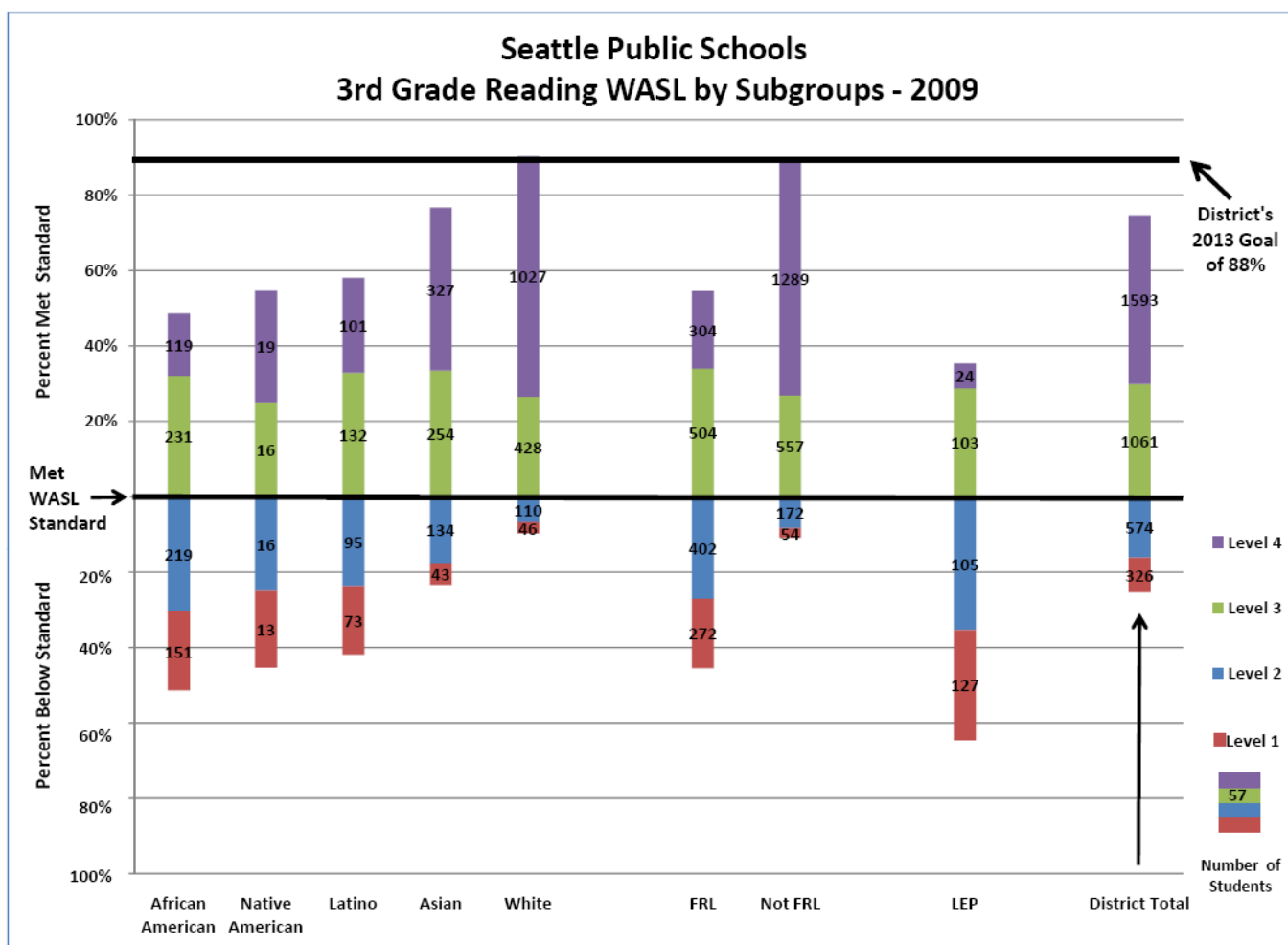
Critical Milestones and Transition Years



Gaps in our Systems: Why Many Youth and Families Struggle to Succeed

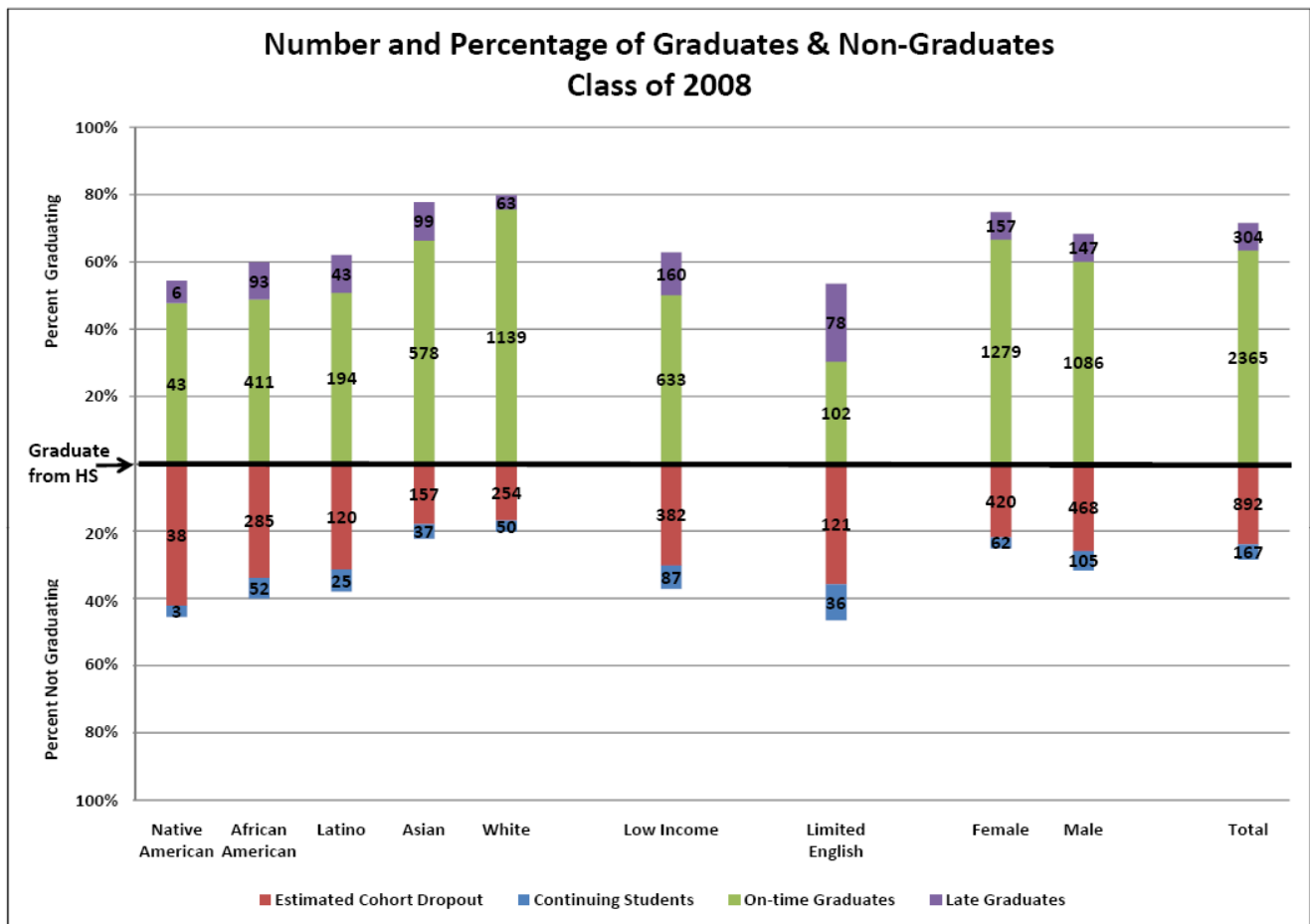
Seattle is a vibrant and highly educated city, but many students are being left behind. Nearly one-third (32%) of students do not graduate on time. Standardized tests show racial inequities in education. For example, 69% of white tenth graders meet state math standards, compared to 30% of Latino and 16% of African American students.

As shown in the following two charts, racial inequities show up as early as third grade and progress all the way through high school graduation, with students of color in Seattle schools falling behind white students, and students qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) performing at substantially lower rates than their more affluent peers. Free and Reduced Lunch students qualify based on federal standards that can be viewed at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/frp>.



Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State Report Card:
<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?year=2009-10>
 FRL= Free and Reduced Lunch; LEP= Limited English Proficiency

Only 63 % of the class of 2008 graduated on time. For low income, English Language Learners and many students of color that rate was barely 50%.



Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State Report Card:
<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?year=2009-10> FRL= Free and Reduced Lunch; LEP= Limited English Proficiency

Schools in Seattle are performing at dramatically different levels, providing some students with an excellent education but giving other students fewer tools to succeed in life. Schools in the Seattle School District are rated on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high). A substantial number—26 schools out of 80, or 32.5%—are underperforming and rated Level 1 or Level 2.

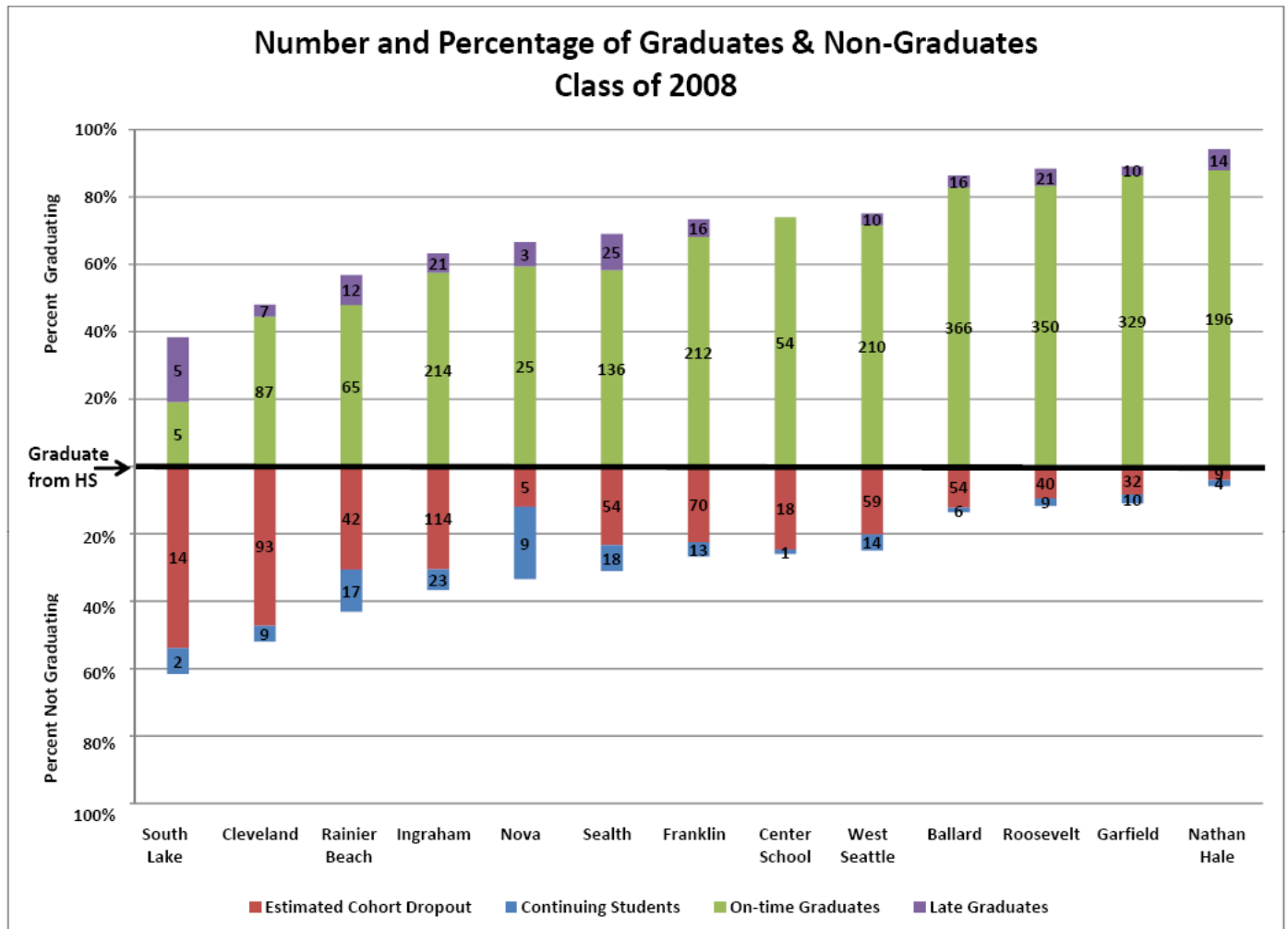
Performance Level	Number of Elementary, Middle, and High Schools in Seattle
Level 1 (Lowest Performance)	13
Level 2	13
Level 3	27
Level 4	17
Level 5 (Highest Performance)	11

Source: Seattle Public Schools, data available at: <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/strategicplan/schoolreport.xml>

Disparities among schools are seen again in high school graduation rates. For example, while the great majority of students at Nathan Hale graduate on time, the opposite is true at Cleveland. The following graph shows the large amount of variation in high school graduation rates among Seattle's schools.

"Seattle graduates only 63% of our children. Having more than one-third of our kids dropping out of school is not acceptable."

- Mayor Mike McGinn



Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State Report Card:
<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?year=2009-10>

Progress To Date: Promoting Success among all of Seattle's Youth and Families

The Initiative and its many community partners are working on multiple fronts to address inequities and barriers so that all of Seattle's youth and families can thrive and succeed. The city's work moving forward is focused on these five priorities:

1. Determine where and how the city spends money along Seattle's Roadmap to Success to ensure city spending is in line with current research on best practices and our community priorities.
2. Focus on the renewal of the Families and Education Levy to increase resources available for the kids who need it most in our community
3. Implement Action Teams devoted to the priorities identified at the Kids and Families Congress.
4. Convene local educational institutions and funders to collaborate on education reform and budget alignment.
5. Increase community engagement and participation in internal city work as well as through Seattle's Cities of Service plan.

1. City spending on Youth and Families

The city is auditing current spending and analyzing whether its budget aligns with the priorities the community has set for children and with the milestones described in the Roadmap to Success. The Initiative is working with city departments to identify which resources are being put toward education and family and community support to help youth and families succeed. Specifically, it is tracking how city programs are contributing to milestones in each of the action areas that the community most wants to achieve. These milestones are listed in the following sections that describe progress to date in each action area.

"We need to keep a watchful eye on our results. We owe it to our kids, our families, and our community, to focus all of our too scarce resources and energies on only those efforts that advance our cause."

- Norm Rice, Co-Chair

2. Action Teams

Renewal of the Families and Education Levy

Top Priorities:

- Early learning
- Curriculum
- Bilingual education
- Teacher quality
- Safe schools
- Funding/Resources
- School-based health
- Academic support
- Family/Community involvement
- Family support
- Collaboration
- Equity
- Cultural competency

The Initiative is working to promote the community's education priorities through the Families and Education Levy, which was passed by the voters in 1990 and is renewed via ballot measure every seven years. The Levy provides support to children and their families both in and out of school and helps all of Seattle's children become school-ready, succeed academically, and graduate from high school. The Levy Planning Committee, composed of 24 citizens, has prepared recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for the 2011 renewal of the Families and Education Levy. The Levy's goal is that **all students in Seattle will graduate from high school ready for college and careers.**

The 2011 Levy's strategies will promote success in education on multiple fronts for different age groups. Across all age groups, the Levy is:

- Funding extra learning time during the school day, summer learning programs, and out-of-school enrichment programs
- Maintaining and expanding school-based health centers
- Providing academic support and case management services to help students who are farthest behind with college and post-secondary readiness

The Levy is also implementing a number of actions for specific age groups to prepare all youth for success in school and after. For children ages birth to 5, the Levy is:

- Improving early learning through training for preschool teachers and assessments to find out how well we are preparing children for school
- Expanding programs that work with families in their homes to develop learning skills for their children
- Increasing access to health screenings and follow-up

"Let's provide opportunities for all families to be engaged and create bridges for collaboration between schools and communities."

- Estela Ortega, Co-Chair

For students in kindergarten through Grade 5, Levy strategies include:

- School-based health care and mental health services coordinated with health centers at middle schools
- Family support services serving students at risk

-
- Culturally and linguistically relevant family support services for immigrant, refugee, and Native American families

Levy strategies for middle and high school students target college and career planning. The Levy is working to improve youth's success after high school through academic advising, assessment of college readiness, internships and job shadowing, and assistance with college and financial aid applications

A major success in 2010 for the Levy has been its work with United Way of King County to launch the Parent-Child Home Program. This program is an early literacy and school readiness initiative for 2- to 4-year-olds and their parents. A trained, culturally-competent home visitor works with families in their homes twice weekly over a two-year period, bringing gifts of books and educational toys. Home visitors coach parents by modeling behaviors that stimulate early learning. This research-based program prepares children so that they will be ready for kindergarten and can achieve success in school.

Milestones — How we'll measure success:

- Students have a family member who attends parent-teacher conferences
- Students have fewer than 10 absences per year
- Parents/caregivers hold, talk and read to child every day
- Children have access to high quality care and early learning opportunities
- Children demonstrate kindergarten readiness across multiple domains
- Third graders proficient on the state reading test
- Fourth graders proficient on the state math test
- Sixth graders passing all classes
- Seventh graders proficient on the state math test
- Ninth graders earning sufficient credits
- Tenth graders proficient on the state math, reading, science & writing tests
- Students graduate on time

"Great cities have great schools. One leads to the other. There's no better investment in our future."

- Mayor Mike McGinn

The Families and Education Levy, which funds City initiatives to support youth and families, covers a 7-year time period and will expire in 2011. The Levy funds programs that provide support to children and their families both in and out of school and helps all children in Seattle to become school ready, succeed academically, and graduate from high school. It provides early childhood development, school-based student and family services, out-of-school activities, middle school support, and student health services.

Previously passed in 1990, 1997, and 2004, the Levy will expire in 2012, and in order to continue to fund essential programs for youth and families, the City will need to pass a new Levy in 2011. The Mayor and City Council will propose a joint resolution with a recommended funding level and the City Council will vote in March on funding levels, with the Levy being placed on the ballot for voter approval in November 2011. Passing the Levy will be of critical importance in sustaining and advancing the Initiative's work to help all families and youth succeed.

The Levy is already seeing results in promoting educational success. The Annual Report published in 2010 identified significant accomplishments, including:

450 preschool children entered kindergarten ready to succeed (87% of children served)

537 at-risk ninth graders promoted to tenth grade on time (75% of ninth graders served)

1,306 students graduated from high school (84% of twelfth graders served)

Health

Top Priorities:

- **Access**
- **School-based health**
- **Mental health**
- **Dental care**
- **Cultural competency**

Increasing support for immigrant and English language learners is a critical concern for all of the Initiative's action teams. The Health Action Team is currently working to create a School-based Health Center and Family Engagement Program, which will support students and families for whom English is not the primary language spoken at home. The program will be located at the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center, which Seattle Public Schools is

expanding to create a more comprehensive and larger school that will allow students to attend from 6th grade through graduation from high school.

The program will include:

- Services to engage students and families in health care and educational opportunities
- Comprehensive medical and behavioral health services for students
- Health services for families and links to other community health programs
- Dental care for students and their families at the center and links to other community locations
- Family supports to help families connect with schools and communities
- Partnership work with other healthcare organizations to build their linguistic and cultural capacity

The work to create the School-based Health Center and Family Engagement Program is already well underway. The Office for Education has redirected current Levy funds to pay for services at the center and has signed a memorandum of agreement to partner with Seattle Public Schools to implement the program.

On January 3, 2011, Public Health released the request for proposals for the City's investment in the this program. The proposal request requires a program that will collaboratively weave together a student and family health system that is multi-faceted and will meet the primary care, mental health, dental, and family support and engagement needs of SBOC students and families. The lead agency of the SBHC at the SBOC is encouraged to partner with other health care organizations and with community-based organizations who serve refugee and immigrant communities in new and creative

ways to ensure that services are comprehensive and culturally appropriate. Proposals are due on February 22, 2011. It is expected that services will begin in the current school year.

The Health Action Team continues to gather input from the community on strategies to support children and families' access to health care, including discussions with refugee and immigrant communities and advocates, community based organizations that work directly with refugee and immigrant youth and families, the student council at the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center, and other Initiative participants and delegates.

Milestones — How we'll measure success:

- Infants have healthy birth weight
- Children have health care
- Children are physically active and eat healthy foods
- Teens have low pregnancy rates

Neighborhood Safety

Top Priorities:

- **Safe communities**
- **Family support**
- **Police accountability**
- **Gangs**

The Neighborhood Safety Action Team is working in partnership with the Seattle Police Department to increase communication between community members and police officers about neighborhood issues. While official crime statistics provide some information about neighborhood safety, they do not necessarily capture all of the issues that

may be of concern. For example, not all neighborhood incidents may be officially reported to the police.

The Neighborhood View Point Pilot project launched in June 2010. The project increases neighborhood safety by implementing brief, one-on-one interviews with community members by police officers in order to identify public safety issues and other concerns in neighborhoods that the police department may be able to address. These conversations will allow the police department to identify issues in neighborhoods earlier and address them before they become bigger problems. The pilot project is currently focusing on two neighborhoods, one in North Seattle and one in Southwest Seattle, and will eventually expand to individual beats in all precincts.

In addition, a diverse team of students from the Evans School at the University of Washington has signed on to develop, distribute, and analyze a public safety survey. The survey focuses on community perceptions of the Seattle Police Department and public safety in Seattle, and its results will provide specific, neighborhood-based information that the Neighborhood Safety Action Team can use to develop far-reaching recommendations to address social inequities.

Milestones — How we'll measure success:

- Children feel safe in their neighborhood and at school

Race and Social Justice

Top Priorities:

- Immigration reform
- Education disparity
- Criminal justice
- Youth opportunities
- Institutional racism

Seattle is nationally recognized as a politically progressive, culturally diverse, and economically prosperous city, and yet Seattle's racial and social inequities mirror national trends. Race and other social justice factors like language and poverty influence where we live, where we work, the likelihood of our involvement in the criminal justice system, and how well we do in school.

The City of Seattle is working to reduce inequities through the Race and Social Justice Community Roundtable. The Roundtable was founded in order to bring together a number of community organizations and institutions working to fight racism in Seattle. In 2010, the Roundtable focused its efforts on improving success in education for Seattle's families of color by eliminating structural racism in the education system.

The Roundtable and the Youth and Families Initiative are working in partnership to find solutions to the challenges that youth and families face so that all children in Seattle can succeed. Aligning with the priorities established by Initiative participants, the Roundtable will focus on the following issues that affect the educational success of families of color in Seattle:

- Race-based inequities in Seattle and King County high school graduation rates
- Racial inequity in school discipline rates, particularly expulsions, suspensions, and other punishments
- Development of a racial equity analysis tool to help organizations make equitable budget and policy decisions

The Roundtable is working with the Washington Community Action Network to promote a statewide legislative strategy that focuses on racial equity in education. A united voice in Olympia can advocate for increased support for school systems and against divisive proposals such as "anti-gang" measures.

Going forward, the Roundtable will organize a community forum to share progress to date and gather feedback from community members. The Roundtable will facilitate participation by communities of color in the Initiative's work to ensure that the Initiative remains accountable to the community and makes progress toward achieving racial equality. To get involved with the Race and Social Justice Community Roundtable, please contact Scott Winn at 684-4541 or scott.winn@seattle.gov.

Milestones — How we'll measure success:

- Students of color and low income students have low discipline referral or suspension rates

Strong Neighborhoods

Top Priorities:

- **Family support/access**
- **Community involvement and collaboration**
- **Affordable housing**
- **Basic needs**

Strong Neighborhoods focuses on the supports families need to thrive while acknowledging the inherent strengths of families and communities. These priorities include ensuring support services are available and accessible to all community members, creative approaches to community involvement and collaboration to address the need for affordable housing in

Seattle. Following the initial Youth & Families Initiative community engagement efforts, the Strong Neighborhoods Action team began to identify steps to address these priorities.

In late 2010, the Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) began a strategic planning process called *Healthy Communities, Healthy Families*. The four goals in the draft HSD strategic plan, and many of the programs currently funded or delivered by the Department, align strongly with the Mayor's Youth & Families Initiative and the thoughts shared during the Initiative's extensive community engagement process. The work to complete the HSD plan includes a community engagement process (late winter/early spring 2011) that will use feedback heard during the Youth & Families Initiative and other City efforts, and will connect with other community members and clients. To date the HSD plan goals are to: create a proactive, seamless service system; strengthen and expand partnerships with other systems and organizations; engage and partner with the community; and use data-driven design and evaluation.

Moving forward, the Strong Neighborhoods Action Team will be reshaped to develop and achieve specific actions, timelines and deliverables. This new combined effort will ultimately help ensure children and families in our community have the support and services they need to be successful.

Milestones — How we'll measure success:

- Children have a caring adult in their home, school, or community
- Students have low mobility rates
- Students participate in high quality learning activities during out-of-school hours
- Children have access to high quality care and early learning opportunities

Youth Development

Top Priorities:

- **Out of school programs**
- **Jobs, internships, and training**
- **Funding and resources for services and programs**
- **Family involvement**
- **Youth voice/involvement**
- **Mentoring**

The Youth Development Action Team is first focusing on jobs, internships, and training, some of the priority issues identified in the Initiative's community discussions and emphasized by YFI participants as critically important in the current economy. To begin its work, the Youth Development Action Team created an inventory of training opportunities for youth and entry-level workers that are funded by the City.

This preliminary inventory found over 3,000 training opportunities funded by the City. The

Action Team found that it was challenging to create this inventory of current training opportunities, however, and this experience helped the Action Team to more clearly identify the larger system barriers that impede youth who are trying to locate training opportunities. Particularly:

- There is no central location or list of training opportunities, making them difficult to locate
- A disconnect between City departments and the Personnel Department's Student Programs has created complex and decentralized processes for youth recruitment and employment
- Less than 15% of training opportunities align with the areas of greatest job demand in the community
- Less than 5% of training opportunities result in actual jobs upon completion of the training

The Youth Development Action Team is working to address these challenges. It is meeting with existing programs to create more opportunities for learning marketable skills and academic achievement. Youth and entry-level workers need to see how their training experience is a first step in a career in which they are likely to attain employment.

In addition, the Action Team is working with the Office of Economic Development to help low-income parents access career and technical education, which has been found to be one of the most critical steps in helping their children succeed. In 2010, the Office invested in several partnerships to promote education and skill building for parents, including:

- The Seattle Jobs Initiative, to provide job skills training and support services for up to 1,200 low-income community members
- SkillUp Washington, a new partnership of leaders in philanthropy, government, education, and industry, to design new ways for working adults to obtain postsecondary degrees and credentials that lead directly to employment
- The Manufacturing and Industrial Council, to place Seattle youth aged 16 to 24 in short term, paid internships that can lead to living-wage careers and build skills that meet changing industry demands

The Action Team's work with the public sector will demonstrate to other businesses that best practices for occupation-based training for youth are effective and provide a good return on investment. In the near future, the Action Team plans to:

-
- Obtain labor market data to guide the City's investments and focus its programs on building youth skills that both benefit the City of Seattle and prepare youth for occupations in high demand
 - Establish centralized, consistent policies and procedures for City internships
 - Create a web portal on Seattle.gov that will list all City youth employment opportunities
 - Survey the private sector regarding their needs and desires for youth employment programs
 - Analyze workforce participation rates by race and ethnicity to help the City set and pursue goals for equity

Milestones — How we'll measure success:

- Students participate in high-quality learning activities during out-of-school hours
- Enrollment in post-secondary education
- Completion of industry recognized certifications

4. Convene leaders

The Mayor, along with Phil Bussey of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Jill Wakefield, the Chancellor of Seattle's Community Colleges convened a small leadership group of educational institutions and funders to advance shared strategies that improve education outcomes at all levels and across all ages and incomes.

This group will look at ways they can mutually support each other starting with the state legislative session. Improving academic outcomes for students requires better articulation across institutional lines and better communication and collaboration among the business community, government, educational institutions and philanthropic and foundational leaders. Whether it is setting specific community goals or agreeing to solve specific problems, the Educational Leadership Group is committed to working together.

5. Community Engagement

Mayor McGinn, along with more than 100 other mayors nationwide, has committed Seattle to being a City of Service. As a City of Service, Mayor McGinn's Service Plan will mobilize community volunteers to work with non-profits who are working on the key milestones in education and youth development. Although the plan is still under development, current volunteer efforts to promote education and youth development are focused on the Early Literacy Initiative, which connects volunteers with third graders to help improve their reading skills and partners with Solid Ground Washington Reading Corps. Other areas of focus may include:

- The After-School Programming Initiative, which connects volunteers with middle school students to improve the quality of out-of-school programs, particularly to help them transition successfully to high school. The lead partners are Seattle YMCA and Seattle Parks & Recreation.
- The Mentoring Initiative, which pairs mentors and at-risk youth and provides them with support as they build relationships. The lead partners are 4C Coalition and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound.
- The School Readiness Initiative, which works with preschools and child care centers to ensure that children enter kindergarten with the skills that they need. The lead partner is SOAR.

"This is important work, because keeping our kids in school, giving them a world class education, and helping them from birth to college and beyond is exactly what will sustain this city, make our economy strong, and make all of us proud to be Seattleites."

- Tim Burgess, City Councilmember

If you would like to take part in any of these initiatives or want to contribute to educational or youth development opportunities in another way, please contact Seattle's Chief Service Officer, Candace Inagi at 206.386.4156 or Engage@Seattle.gov for more information.

As part of a promise made from the Mayor to the community, the city developed a social networking site at youthandfamiliesinitiative.org that provides a place for individuals to connect with others, opportunities to volunteer, local up to date news and information.